**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

 **Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Series: Lord, Teach Us to Pray*

*Sermon: “Assembly Prayer” (11-4-18)*

**Group Announcements (Leaders: Please review prior to start)**

**1)** Welcome everyone to your group.

**2) Leaders: Please note special instructions for prayer time.**

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** *Please use these questions as a time for people to informally talk and get to know each other.*

Go around the room and have everyone answer this question: **What is your favorite family tradition?** (Be as specific as you can)

* **Opening Prayer**. (Either leader, host home or someone who is willing to pray out loud)

*(Notes from message for reference only – use only as needed)*

**\*\***Use Sermon notes bulletin insert

* **The Immediate Context**
* 1) This text is directed to the nation of Israel – the people of God.
* 2) The reference to ‘land’ specifically refers to the Promised Land.
* 3) God speaks in this way because of his covenant with Israel.
* 4) This is both conditional and unconditional.
* **Warnings of Misapplication**
* 1) America (or any other nation) cannot be substituted for the nation of Israel.
* 2) The land of America cannot replace the land promised to Israel.
* 3) This is not a ritual prayer for blessing and prosperity in America.
* **Biblically Faithful Ways to Apply This Text**
* 1) We can learn the power of assembly prayer.
* 2) We can learn the power of humble, God-directed, confessional, assembly prayer.
* 3) We can understand the ‘my people’ of v14 to extend to the blood bought people of God through the New Covenant in Christ.
* **The Lord’s Requirements for Assembly Prayer**
* 1) Humility 2) Seek the face of God 3) Turn away from wickedness
* **How Does God Respond?**
* 1) He will hear from heaven. 2) He will forgive. 3) He will heal.

**Into The Text** (15 Minutes) (Leaders: This time is not meant to be application yet, this is time in the Word, before we seek to apply truth, we need to understand the meaning of the text. The section after this one will focus on application.)

1. Ask someone to read the following passage 2 Chronicles 7:1-3. *Ask*: *What does it mean that the glory of the Lord filled the temple in v1? What did the glory of the Lord cause the people of Israel to do in v3? What did it mean that God consumed the burnt offering and sacrifices?*
2. Ask someone to read 2 Chronicles 7:11-16. *Ask: Who are ‘my people’ in v14? What land is being referred to at the end of v14? Are these promises conditional? What are they conditional upon? Are the conditions for individuals or the assembly? In what way can God’s name be there forever (v14)?*
3. As someone to read 2 Chronicles 7:19-20. *Ask: What will happen to the promises of v14-15 if v19-21 come to pass?*

**Application & Discussion** (15-20 Minutes)

1. Say: Let’s move to application. *Have you ever considered the significance and power of assembly prayer? Why did the nation of Israel gather for assembly prayer so often? Why does the Lord encourage us to gather and assemble today? Why have Christians always assembled and why will they always assemble?*
2. *What are some benefits of assembly prayer that differ from individual prayer? Does assembly prayer negate the need for individual prayer? Why are both needed?*
3. *Ask: Why is it incorrect to apply the promises of 7:14 to America? Does that mean we should not pray for America? Is God scripturally obligated to bless America in the future as he has in the past? In what ways is America blessed? In what ways is America not blessed?*
4. *Ask: What does humble prayer look like? Why are we to seek God’s face as an assembly? How does a nation turn from wickedness? Does this mean we can never sin again?*
5. *Ask: What can you do personally to best encourage the gathered assembly?*

**\*\*Prayer Time**: **(Leader Say:**) We will now close with a time of prayer.

As we have done before, ask someone to start and then have each person go around the room and pray a one sentence prayer out loud to the Lord, with all of your heart: This sentence can either be prayed as is or in your own words.

* Make sure everyone knows who is starting the prayer and the direction you are going.
* The sentence is…. *“Lord, help me to love the assembling of your church, help us to pray humbly, to seek your face and to turn away from wickedness.”*
* *(****Leader****: Encourage those uncomfortable with praying out loud to try this, even if it is just a short sentence, they can still pass if they choose but do ask for this prayer to go around the room in a certain order so everyone knows – give room for learning to pray)*
* Once everyone has prayed this prayer in their own words, you can either open it up for prayer or just close. Lord, teach us to pray.